

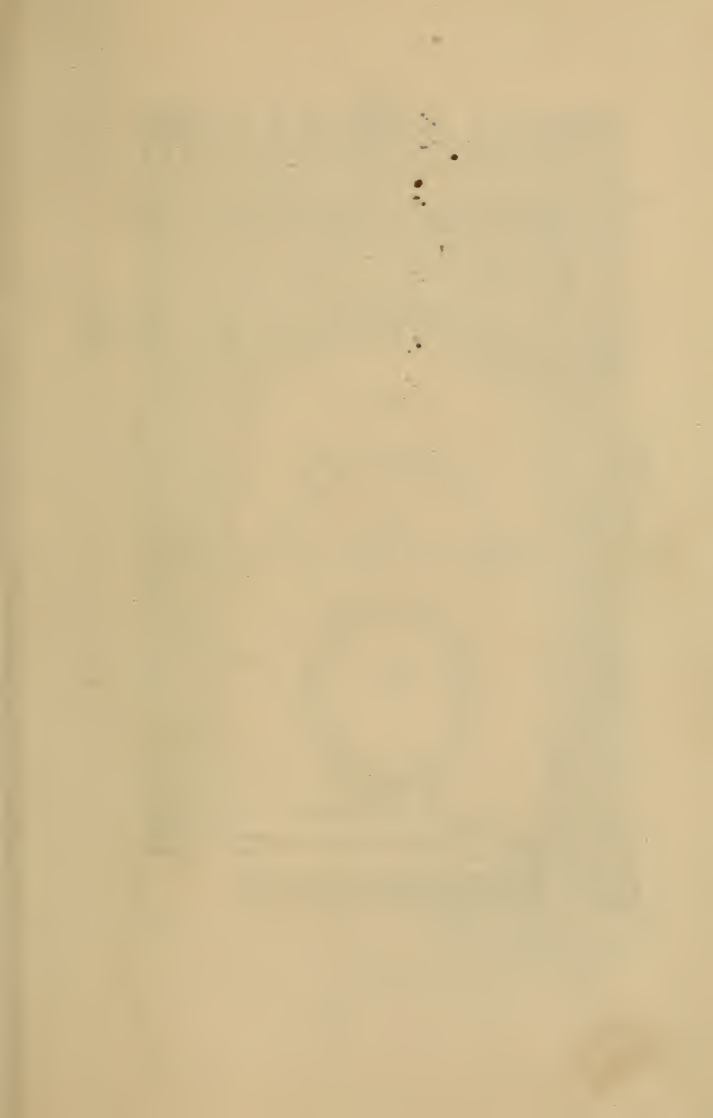
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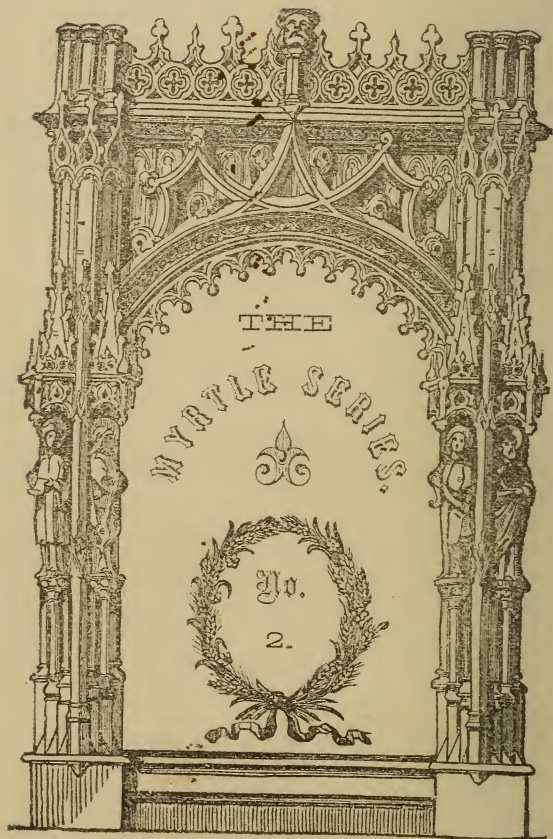
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





✓
THE BIBLE OF GOD;

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OR,

MR. MYRTLE'S TALKS

WITH HIS BOYS,

BOBBY AND BENNY.

17
BY W. M. J.

✓
"Thy Word is True."



✓
LOUISVILLE, KY.
WALLER, SHEERILL & CO.

1865.
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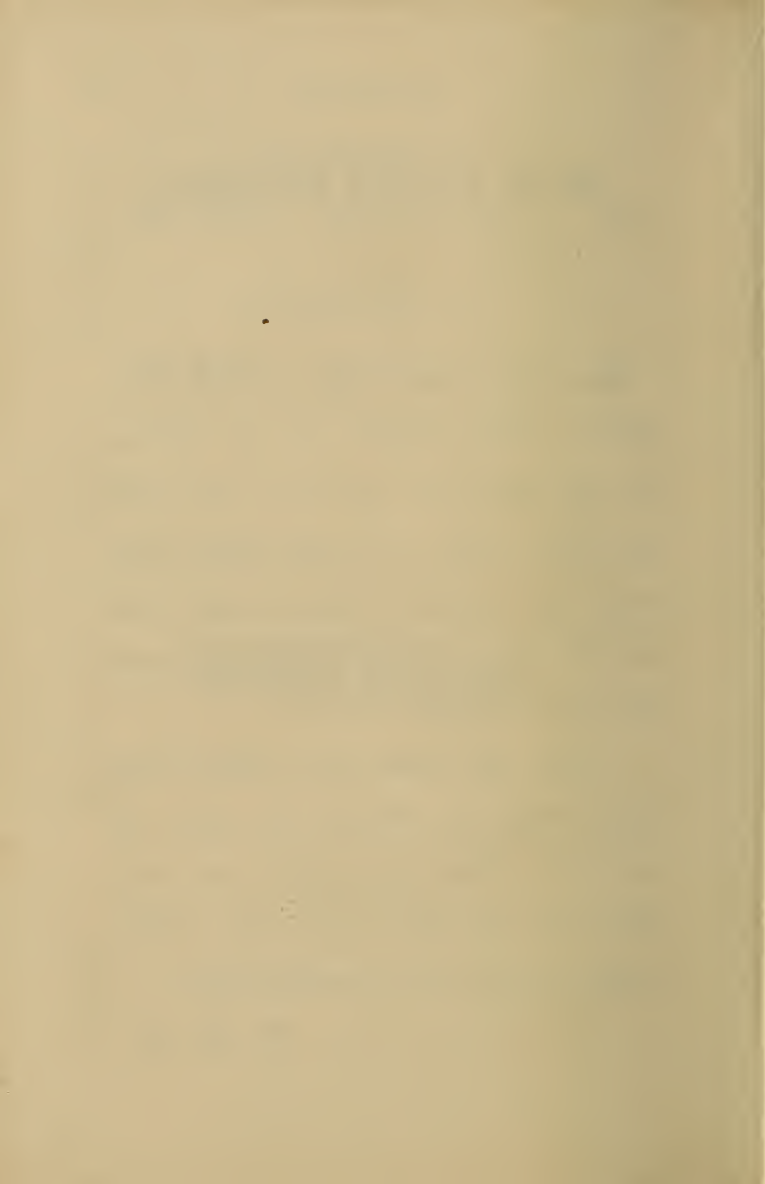


TO MY LITTLE READERS.

THIS little book tells you about the Bible—God's Word. It is written for you, that you may love and read the Bible more. If your father was away off in some distant land, and should write you a letter, would you not read it often?

Well, the Bible is a letter from your Father in Heaven to you. If you love Him, you must read and obey what He says to you in it. May it lead you to the Beautiful City!

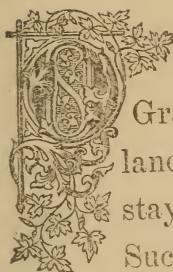
W. M. J.





CHAPTER I.

THE FATHER'S RETURN.

 PA, I am so glad you have got back home again. Grandpa has come from England, and says he is going to stay with us ever so long." Such were the words that greeted Mr. Myrtle as he alighted from his carriage at his gate, after an absence of ten days from home and its comforts. Bobby, his oldest son, who had been standing at the gate

watching for him, having uttered these words, sprang forward and was received in the open arms of his father. As they reached the stone steps of the house, little Benny, the younger son, who was playing in the hall, spied his father, and ran to meet him, exclaiming, "O Ma! Ma! here is Pa! O Pa, I am so glad you have come home. What did you bring me? Grandpa is here, and he brought me ever so many good things to eat, and so many pretties, a little rocking horse, and a bow and arrows, and a nice cage with birds in it, and"—

Almost out of breath, little Benny had reached his Pa, and his words were stopped by the hearty kiss of the happy father. Mr. Myrtle had

returned from his long trip, to find his family all well and happy, and his aged father, whom he had not seen for many years. Joyous was the meeting of the father and son after so many years of separation. To the good training in youth, and kind advice of his father, Mr. Myrtle, to a very great extent, owed his good traits and high moral character, and better than all, his deep and ardent piety. The son was conscious of the great debt he was under to his father, and every way possible, strove to pay it. He loved him with all the strength of his noble heart, and did for him all that was in his power to render him happy, and to show him his love for him.

The little re-united family were hap-

py indeed, as they told each other the events of the past ten days, while the father was absent. Little Benny was very anxious to tell his Pa all about his rides upon his rocking horse that Grandpa had brought him, and how he had shot at the birds in the orchard with his bow and arrows, and he would have taken up all the evening, had not his Ma checked him in his talk. Bobby, not caring much for these things, was glad when his Ma had silenced Benny. When there was a lull in the conversation of the old people, Bobby said: "While you were gone, Pa, I have, with Grandpa, been reading the Bible, which you called God's letter to man, and I have learned so many things from it. Grandpa

told me ever so many things about it. I am very much taken with it, and am so glad that you have come back to tell me more."

Grandpa. "Yes, Bobby and I have been, every day, reading the Bible, and he is so anxious to know all about it, that he has wearied my old eyes—we read so much. I am glad to see my little grandson so deeply interested in the Word of God. I trust he will continue to study it until he loves it as all good men do."

Pa. "Bobby and I have had a good many talks about God, as he has told you, I suppose, and he, I am glad to know, has a very good idea as to God and His character. I told him when you come, and I returned, I

would tell him how I know that the Bible is God's letter to man."

Grandpa. "Yes, he has told me all about God, as you taught him. I hope he will learn as much about His Word as he has about God."

Bobby. "O I hope I shall learn all about the Bible. I will have Pa, and Grandpa too, to tell me about it. Shall we not commence to-night, Pa? Ma is busy sewing, and Benny is asleep; why not commence?"

Little Benny, who was not very sound asleep, hearing what Bobby said, exclaimed: "No I ain't asleep, either. I was thinking about how I would take my bow and arrows and go to the woods to-morrow, and kill some birds for Ma. You ain't a going

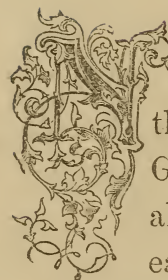
to talk while I am asleep, for I want to hear about God's letter to Pa, too."

Pa. "Yes, my little man shall hear, too, about the Bible, when we talk; but it is too late to-night, so we will have to put it off until to-morrow evening; then we will have a good long talk. Now Grandpa will read God's Word, and we will bow in prayer before the Lord, and I hope my little boys will be quiet, and listen as Grandpa reads." Mr. Myrtle, the elder, then adjusting his spectacles, read the seventy-eighth Psalm, commencing, "Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth," and asked the blessing of God upon all, and His protection while they slept.



CHAPTER II.

THE BIBLE.

OW, Pa, tell us about the Bible. If it is written by the great and wise Being, God, I am in haste to learn all about it." With great earnestness Bobby thus addressed his Pa the next evening, as soon as all had entered the sitting room. Grandpa had taken his seat in the great easy chair, on one side of the centre table, with the Bible in his

lap; Mr. Myrtle was on the other side, while Bobby and Benny were seated upon their little stools, one by Grandpa, the other by Pa.

Bobby. "Now, Pa, we are ready to hear what you can tell us about God's letter. I was reading it while you were away, and I noticed it was called the Bible. What does that mean? Why is it so called?"

Pa. "The Bible means *the Book*, or the *Book of Books*. It is so called because it is God's Book, and so much better and greater than all other books. God wrote this; men wrote all others."

Benny. "But Pa, I heard Grandpa call it the Old Testament and the New

Testament. Has it two names? Why is it called Testament, Pa?"

Bobby. "Why, Benny, Grandpa told us about that the other day. He said Testament meant Covenant, and it was called Testament because it contains the will in which are told the great things kept by God for those who are His children. He said also that it belonged to God's children."

Pa. "You are right, my son. Jesus is called the Testator, that is, one who makes a will, and when the will was made, Jesus, God's Son, sealed it with His blood."

Bobby. "I heard Mr. Theo, the preacher, call the Bible *Scriptures*. What does that mean, Grandpa?"

Grandpa. "Scriptures simply mean

writings. The Scriptures are the writings of God."

Bobby. "All these names—Bible, Testament, Scriptures, mean the same thing then. But Pa, you called the Bible God's *letter*. When I was reading it, I thought it was ever so many letters. How does that happen? Was it not all written at the same time?"

Pa. "O no, my son; the Old Testament has thirty-nine books or letters, written at different times; the New Testament has twenty-seven letters, written in different years, and by different persons."

Bobby. "O yes, that is the reason, then, why it has different names to each letter."

Benny. "Pa, when Grandpa was

reading, he skipped ever so much in the middle of the Bible, and when I asked him why he did it, he said it was the *Apocrypha*. What does that mean, and why do we not take that as God's letter?"

Pa. "Apocrypha means hidden, or concealed, or doubtful. These books are not of God, but written by men, as they say themselves. The reason, then, why Grandpa did not read them is, because they are not the words of God. No one receives them as the writings of God, except the Roman Catholics, and they do it because it upholds some of their foolish doings."

Bobby. "You said, Pa, that the Bible was written to men. Was it

written in English, or French, or German? Did God write to each people, in their own language, so that all could read for themselves?"

Pa. "O no, it was written in two languages; the Old Testament in Hebrew, and the new in Greek."

Benny. "Why, Pa, our Bible is not written that way. I do not know these languages, but I can read this Bible," and Benny laid his hand upon the Bible on Grandpa's knees.

Pa. "But Benny, learned men have translated this from the Hebrew and Greek for you. Do you know what translate means, boys?"

Bobby. "O yes, Pa. The other day when that Indian came here, we could not understand his talk; but the

man that came with him, explained it to us. That was translating, was it not, Pa ? ”

Pa. “ Yes, that is what learned men have done for us ; they have explained the language to us. So it is explained to all the nations where it has been sent. It is put in their own language.”

Bobby. “ But Pa, would it not have been better, more like God, who is kind, and good, and wise, to have written in all the languages to all nations ? ”

Pa. “ No, my son. When the Bible was written, the language it was written in died ; that is, people quit talking it, and thus it could not be changed.”

Bobby. "O yes, Pa, I now see how wise God is. Man could not have done that way. Now God's letter can not change like all other languages, and we may be certain that we have it pure. Men would never have thought of that. But Pa, I noticed that the Bible is divided into verses, and some times these verses stop in the middle of a sentence. Did God do that? Was that wise?"

Grandpa. "That was not done by God. A man in the middle of the sixteenth century did that. His name was Robert Stephens, and he was a French printer."

Bobby. "I am glad to know that God did not do it. All His works are perfect."

Pa. "The Bible was divided into verses, so that it could easily be referred to at any time. I can now tell you to look at a certain verse, in a certain chapter, and you can find it easy."

Bobby. "Well, it would have been better if Mr. Stephens had not broken up sentences, but commenced a verse at a full stop. Is there any book as old as the Bible, Pa?"

Pa. "No, my son; the Bible, that is, the first part of it written, is a thousand years older than any other book. Away back, thousands of years in the past, it was written. It has stood, while kingdoms have arisen and fallen. God's Word lives longer than all else."

Bobby. "O how much we ought to

love and read such a book ! But Pa, you have not told me yet how you know that this is God's word. Some men say it is not. John Willis laughed at me, at school the other day, when I said I was reading God's Word. He said it was the word of man. He said, too, that his Pa was as good as any body's Pa, and *he* told him that the Bible was a cheat, and his Pa was an infidel. What is that, Pa ? It must be some thing bad, if being that makes him talk so about the Bible."

Pa. "An infidel is one who rejects the Bible, and says it is not God's Word. I hope my little boy will never be an infidel."

Bobby. "I do not want to be. Tell

me how I am to know that God wrote the Bible. I believe it because you and Grandpa say so, but I want to know how to prove it. Will you not tell me?"

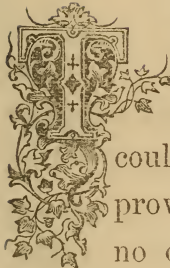
Pa. "Yes I will, but I see that it is bed time, so you must wait until to-morrow evening, then I will tell you how I know, and how you may know it."

Grandpa read a part of the one hundred and nineteenth Psalm, in which are these words: "My tongue shall speak of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness;" and all worshiped the Lord.



CHAPTER III.

THE BIBLE IS OF GOD.

HE next day, while Bobby was at school, his mind was upon the Bible. He could not see how it could be proved that God wrote it, as no one had seen Him do it; and while thus thinking, he heard some of the bad boys, larger than himself, making light of the Bible, saying that it was not what preachers said it was, but that priests had writ-

ten it to make money, and had told the people it was from God, so that they might have more power over men. He was sorry to hear them talk thus, for he believed the Bible was from God, because his Pa told him so; but it troubled him to think he could not prove it. So, as soon as school closed, he hastened home to learn from his Pa the proof. After supper, when all were arranged, as on the last evening, Bobby commenced the talk by saying: "Pa, I heard some of the big boys at school to-day making light of the Bible; and Jack Weston said that priests wrote it, and then told the people that God did it. I was so sorry that I could not prove to him that God wrote it; but I was glad

when I thought of this evening, as I knew you would teach me how to prove it. Now, Pa, what is the proof?"

Pa. "Well, my son, I will try to explain it to you. I hope you will not let those bad boys lead you to think less of the Bible; only bad people talk so of it. I suppose you think that God *could* write to men if He wanted to?"

Bobby. "O yes, for God is all-powerful. You taught me that He can do any thing. If He can make worlds and men, I don't suppose any one could doubt but that He could write to the men He makes."

Pa. "Then God can make a revelation, that is, give His thoughts to man. He can impress His thoughts

upon the mind of one man, and that man can write them for others. This is what He has done."

Bobby. "O Pa, I see now how it is. God did not write it himself, but He gave it to one man, impressed His thoughts upon this man, and then told him to write it for others. Moses, and Solomon, and Matthew, and John, and Paul, and Peter, and many others, did the writing. God told them what to say, by impressing it upon their minds. I am glad that you explained this, for I wondered how these men wrote the Bible, and yet God did it. I see now."

Pa. "Yes, God inspired them, or breathed the words into their minds, and they spoke and wrote them."

Bobby. "It was like the way Benny made that speech in the parlor, when the folks thought he did so well. You stood behind the curtain and told him what to say, and ~~he~~ did the speaking. So God is not seen, but He told the men what to say, and they said it."

Pa. "You have the true idea. But now as we have seen that God could, if he wanted to, reveal His will to man, do you not think, from what you have learned of God, that he *would* do it?"

Bobby. "Yes, Pa; when you told me how good He was, and kind, I thought it strange that He had not told those whom He had made, how to do, so as to please Him. I would

expect Him to tell them what to do, it would be so like Him."

Pa. "Well, do you not think that man needed this word from Him? How could we know what to do to please Him, if He did not tell us? Was it not needed?"

Bobby. "I need it, Pa, for I do not know how to do, without the Bible, so that He may be pleased. I suppose every body else would need His word."

Pa. "When you look at those places where the Bible is not read, where the people have not heard of it, you see how much the world needs it."

Bobby. "O yes, I heard Mr. Graves, the preacher, who had been away across the ocean to heathen

lands, last Sabbath tell how the people acted. He said that they bowed down before a piece of wood, called an idol, and worshipped it. And some times they worshipped a bird, and some times a cow, and some times even a snake. And I cried—I could not help it—when he told about the mother taking her little boy and throwing him into the river to be eat up by the great fishes. How sorry she must have been to see her little boy killed. And Mr. Graves said she did it because she thought it was pleasing to God, and would make Him bless her. If she had God's word she would not do this cruel act. She needed it very much. I know that word is needed by all men, that they may

know how to act so as to please God and be happy."

Pa. "Yes, God's word is needed by man. Well, we have now seen that God can make a revelation of His will, and that His goodness would lead us to expect it, and that man stands very much in need of it. But the question still comes to us, did God make it? Is God the author or writer of the Bible?"

Bobby. "Yes, Pa, that is the question. I want the proof of it for myself. Did God write it?"

Pa. "Well, the first proof I give you is, that there are things in the Bible that none but God could know. As man could not know them, man could not tell them; but these things

are written in the Bible, and it follows that some one wiser than man wrote them ; it must be God."

Bobby. "If these things are found in the Bible, and man could not find them out, of course it must have been of God. You proved to me that there was a God, by showing me things that man could not make, and God must have been, to make them. So now you say that the things in the Bible man could not find out, it must be of God. Now if you will tell me some of these things, I can tell Jack Weston, at school to-morrow, that I know the Bible is of God, for I can prove it, and he will laugh no more at me."

Grandpa. "What the Bible tells about God, man never could find out.

It tells what sort of a Being He is?"

Bobby. "But, Grandpa, can we not tell what He is from His works? When we see the sun and moon, and all He has made, do we not know that He is great? When we see how all these are made, every thing so well suited to its place, do we not know that He is wise?"

Grandpa. "Well, all this is true. But do his works say any thing about when He commenced to make them, or when He himself began to live?"

Bobby. "O no: does the Bible tell that? Does it tell how old the world is, and how long God has lived?"

Grandpa. "The Bible says that God is eternal, that is, had no begin-

ning, and will have no ending. He always was, and always will be."

Bobby. "O Grandpa, I would never have thought of that. I read in the little book that you brought over from England, that the gods the heathen nations worship, have a beginning, were born, and none of the men ever supposed that their gods always lived. I reckon they never thought of it. That is something that is found alone in the Bible, and it must be from God, as no one else ever thought of it till it was found there. It is above man. It must be that God put that thought into the world."

Pa. "Now, my son, leave out the Bible, and can any one tell how the

world was made, or how man came upon the earth?"

Bobby. "Well, I never thought of that. Did not some of the great and learned men of the world never find out that? I do not know."

Pa. "No; no one of them found out about it, though they studied hard to do so. Some of them said it came by chance, others that it always was."

Benny. "O yes, Pa, I remember that when Bobby was reading to Grandpa in his little book, while you were gone, that some great men had taught that monkeys turned into men! I laughed at the thought of a monkey becoming a man; but the book said that these men did not tell where the monkeys came from."

Pa. "A great many foolish notions were held by men about creation, where the Bible was not known. God alone knows that He made the earth and man, and as it is told in the Bible, God must have written the Bible, or told it to men to write."

Bobby. "Well, that is another proof that the Bible is of God. I'll tell Jack Weston that, and tell him to ask his Pa who made man, and I think the laugh will be against him, for he must take the Bible for it, or say he don't know, or that men sprang from monkeys. But Grandpa, is there any thing else the Bible tells that man never could find out?"

Grandpa. "O yes; there is a future state, the Bible says. When we

die here, we go to some other place to live. It says man never will die. His body and soul part, but the soul goes to another world, and at a certain time the body, which we put into the grave, will be raised, and the two will be joined together again."

Bobby. "But Grandpa, did not men know this? That little book says they believe it."

Pa. "But Bobby, how could they know it? When they put their friends who died, in the grave, did they ever come back to tell about it?"

Bobby. "No sir; I suppose that no one ever went into the grave and came back. But how did these men find it out, so as to believe it?"

Pa. "Why they only hoped so.

They wanted to see their friends again, and hoped they would; they did not know it. The Bible alone tells about this."

Bobby. "If man did not know it, and God alone knows it, the Bible is from Him if it tells it."

Pa. "Yes, you reason right. Men may and have hoped about this matter, but the Bible alone speaks out clearly about it. It tells that there is a future world, a heaven all glorious and beauteous, in which shall live the good who die here, and a hell, filled with misery, where the wicked people shall be forever. But there is one more thing told which men know nothing about."

Bobby. "What is that, Pa? I

have three strong proofs now ; tell me the fourth one, so that I may be sure that God speaks in the Bible. I will read it more than ever."

Pa. "It is how a man can get to heaven, and keep away from hell. If men did not know that there were a heaven and a hell, they could not know how to reach them."

Bobby. "That is true. But Pa, Grandpa told me that the only way to reach heaven was to be without sin, and that Christ would take that away, if he would ask Him. Did not man know how to get free from sin?"

Pa. "No. They knew that they were sinners, that they were wicked, but did not know how to escape from

sin. They tried many ways, but all failed."

Bobby. "O yes, that is what Mr. Graves, the returned missionary, said was the reason why mothers threw their children into the river. He said that they knew and felt that they had sinned, and they thought they would be forgiven by these cruel acts. But Pa, did no one, without the Bible, know how to go to Christ, that He might take away their sins?"

Pa. "If you take the Bible away, my son, they could know nothing about Christ, for in it only is He spoken of. Nature tells of God, but nothing of Christ."

Bobby. "I see now; the Bible tells the way of escape from sin, and the

way to heaven, and as God only knew of these ways, He must have written it. I know now for myself, that the Bible is God's book. He wrote it by the hands of man. I can prove it now to them bad boys who made light of it."

Grandpa. "But Bobby, there is another way to prove it, that your Pa has not told you, and that is from prophesy."

Bobby. "Tell me, Grandpa, for I want to know all the proof. But what is prophesy?"

Pa. "We have had a long talk now, and we must quit for to-night. To-morrow evening Grandpa will answer your question, and explain how

prophecy proves the Bible to be of God."

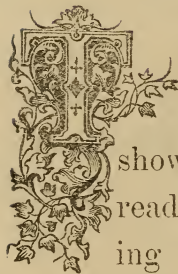
At family worship was read the second chapter of Proverbs, in which are these words: "The Lord giveth wisdom; out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."





CHAPTER IV.

THE BIBLE OF GOD PROVED FROM PROPHECY.

HE next day, when Bobby met Jack Weston at school, being anxious to show him that he was right in reading the Bible, and believing it to be the word of God, he asked him who made man and the world. The boys were gathered around to hear. Benny, who was standing by, full of mischief, spoke

before Jack could answer, saying, "Why he believes that the world came by chance, and men grew from monkeys! I know he does, for he does not believe the Bible." And Benny stepped behind his larger brother Bobby.

Jack. "No I don't, either. God made them all."

Bobby. "How do you know, Jack?" Jack would liked to have said, because the Bible said so, but he remembered that he had denied the truth of the Bible; so he stammered out:

"Why—why—because He did;" and brightening up as a thought came into his mind, he said, "Mother said so, and she knows."

Bobby. "But your mother reads

and believes the Bible, and she found it there. You deny the truth of the Bible. How do you know?" Jack, unable to answer, was turning away, saying: "Come, boys, let us play; what's the use of such talk?" when Bobby said, "Ask your Pa that question to-night, and see what he will say; he does not believe the Bible."

Bobby returned home at night, thinking of the talk to come off after supper. He was puzzled to know what prophesy meant, but he put the thought away, feeling that he would learn when all should meet in the sitting room. When supper was over, and all had taken their places, as on the evening before, Bobby said:

"Now, Grandpa, tell us what proph-

esy means, and how that proves that the Bible is from God."

Grandpa. "A prophet is one who tells what will take place in time to come. Prophecy is the telling before hand what will take place in the future. If I knew and would tell you what will take place next week, or next year, this would be prophecy, and I would be a prophet."

Bobby. "But Grandpa, how does that prove the Bible to be from God? I do not see what that has to do with the proof."

Grandpa. "You will see after a while. Do you know of any one who can tell what will take place next week?"

Bobby "Why no, Grandpa, no body

can know what will be, even one day before hand. God, who Pa said was all-wise, who knows all things, past, present, and to come, alone can tell about the future."

Pa. "Do you not know that the Bible tells of future things? It tells of many things which shall yet come to pass. It told of many before they happened."

Bobby. "O I see now. The Bible tells of future events, and they come to pass. Man can not do this. Man did not write the Bible then. God must have done it, for He knows what will take place before hand. If the Bible does this, it is proof that it is of God. But did it do it? Will you not show me some of these prophecies,

Pa, and then show me when they took place? ”

Pa. “I will show you some of them, so that you may see how the Bible has, before hand, told what would take place. I cannot tell you about all, as it would take too much time. You take the Bible and read where I will tell you, what the Bible says about the things to happen, and Grandpa will tell us when they happened, as he has read all the histories that tell about them. We will commence with what is said about the great city of Babylon, how it should be destroyed, and all about what should take place at its fall.”

Benny. “But Pa, tell us about Babylon first. What kind of a city was

it? When was it built, and who built it? Was it a great city when the Bible said it should fall?"

Bobby. "Yes, Pa, tell us all about it, how great, and strong, and beautiful it was when it was said that it should be destroyed."

Pa. "Babylon was first built four thousand and ninety-nine years ago, by those who were from Noah, who was saved in the Ark, when the flood was upon the earth, as the Bible tells us. Nimrod, the grandson of Noah, two hundred and thirty-four years afterwards, made it a great deal larger. Eight hundred years afterwards, it was rebuilt by Semiramis, queen of Assyria. But it was Nebuchadnezzar, and his daughter Nitocris, who made

it a city so beautiful and grand that it became one of the wonders of the world. The city was built a perfect square, and each one of the four sides was fifteen miles long. Then there were great walls around the city, eighty-seven feet thick, and three hundred and fifty feet high."

Benny. "Why it was larger than London; was it not, Grandpa?"

Grandpa. "O yes, Benny, it was eight times as large."

Bobby. "What a mighty city it was! But go on, Pa; tell us about its houses and all its beauties."

Pa. "It had fifty streets, each fifteen miles long, and one hundred and fifty feet wide; and at the ends of each street was a great gate in the wall,

made of brass. There were one hundred gates of brass, twenty-five on each side of the city. There was a great river which ran through the centre of the city, called the Euphrates. There were steps leading down to the river, and beautiful boats to cross from the east side of the city to the west. The houses were three or four stories high. In the middle of the city was a great temple, built for one of their gods called Belus. In this temple was a great image made of gold, said to be worth seventeen million five hundred thousand dollars, and it was said to be forty feet high. And there was a golden altar upon which they offered sacrifice to Belus, their God.

“There were great hanging gardens

in the palace of the king, containing four hundred square feet. Trees grew in these gardens, and beautiful flowers, so that in the very midst of the city one could have all the pleasant perfumes of the country. These were made for the king's wife, who had lived in the country."

Bobby. "O what a beautiful place it must have been. I would like to have lived there."

Pa. "The king was proud of the great city he had built, and for his pride God humbled him. He sent him from among men, and made him eat grass as an ox. God hates pride. But I have said enough about the city. Let us turn to the Bible, and see what it said should be its end."

Bobby. “How long, Pa, was it said that the city should fall, before it did fall?”

Pa. “Over a hundred years, and it was told what man should cause its fall, before that man was born. His name was Cyrus. He was a great warrior. But now, Bobby, turn to the thirteenth chapter of the prophet Isaiah, and read, commencing at the nineteenth verse.” Bobby turned to the chapter and read :

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation ; neither shall the Arabian pitch

his tent there ; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there ; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures, and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces ; and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged."

Bobby. "This is what is said should take place ; did it, Grandpa ?"

Pa. "Turn first to the fifty-first chapter of Jeremiah, and read the thirty-sixth verse. Let us have all the prophesy together. There it tells how Cyrus should take the city."

Bobby read : "Therefore thus saith

the Lord, Behold I will plead thy cause and take vengeance for thee, and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry."

Grandpa. "History tells us how this great city was destroyed. The Bible said it would fall by drying up the sea. Cyrus, when he had surrounded the city, and had tried to starve the people, so that they would give up, at length found out that he could enter the city by cutting the banks of the river, and letting the water run down, and then go in under the walls, where the river had been. He went in the bed of the river, and thus took his army into the city, while the king and his nobles were at a great feast; and while they were all drink-

ing and dancing, suddenly Cyrus and his men rushed upon them, and the king, Belshazzar, was killed, with all his nobles. Thus was the city taken, and from this time it lost its glory and power."

Bobby. "But Grandpa, did it entirely go to ruin? The Bible said it should be so ruined that wild beasts and satyrs should be there. It was to be a place of ruins."

Benny. "What is a satyr, Pa? Did you ever see one?"

Pa. "No, I never saw one; but I know that it was a strange kind of an animal that lived in the woods, or amid the ruins of cities left alone. Some do not believe that there are any

such beings, but others say they have seen them."

Grandpa. "Mr. Rich, a learned man who visited the ruins of Babylon, says that he saw great heaps of rubbish, and bricks, and pieces of glass and shells scattered about. He also says there were many dens of wild beasts, and he saw owls and bats among the ruins. He says that a Choader, one of the inhabitants of the country, told him that there were satyrs there. The man told Mr. Rich that a satyr was an animal that looked like a man from the head to the waist, and the thighs and legs like a sheep or goat. He told him also that the Arabs hunted it with dogs, and when they caught it, they eat the lower

parts, but would not eat the other parts, because it looked like a man. All ancient writers tell how the city is but a ruin. All travelers speak of it as entirely destroyed."

Pa. "Now you see how the Bible tells before hand what will take place. Is it not proof that it is of God?"

Bobby. "Yes, for no one but God could know what will take place, and He must have written the Bible, as the Bible has this knowledge. But *Pa.*, are there other prophecies in the Bible, like this, which have come to pass?"

Pa. "O yes, there are many more. Tyre, and Ninevah, and Ethiopia, and Egypt, and many more cities are told about; but it would take us too long

to talk about them. It is just as true about these, as about Babylon. There is one more I will tell you of. You, boys, saw a proof of the Bible's truth the other day in Viola."

Bobby. "What was it, Pa? I do not remember of seeing any thing like a proof of the Bible's truth."

Benny. "All I saw strange was a crooked-nose Jew. He was going around with old clothes to sell. I reckon he was not a proof."

Pa. "Yes, Benny, that was the proof I was about to tell you of."

Bobby. "Why, Pa, how is a poor Jew proof that the Bible is true? I never heard of such a thing."

Pa. "The Jews were once the beloved people of God. They were

blessed with all good. God told them if they would keep his commands and do good, He would always bless them ; but if they did not, all curses should come upon them. It was said that they should be scattered and destroyed as a nation, yet that they should live to suffer. God said they should become a hiss and byword to all nations. This is what the Bible said should happen. Do you not see how it is true at this day ? ”

Benny. “ Yes, Pa, I heard the men make fun of that old Jew in Viola, and the boys ran after him, calling him, ‘ *old Abraham.* ’ The men said he would steal.”

Bobby. “ And I heard Mr. Bola say that his neighbor, Mr. Brand, was

as '*mean and stingy as a Jew.*' Do all men thus scorn the poor Jews?"

Pa. "Yes, they are a byword for all nations. They did not obey God, and they became very wicked, and at last put to death God's Son on the cross, and God scattered them in all lands. Where ever you see a poor despised Jew, you have a proof that the Bible is true. The time will come when they shall again turn to God, and He shall bless them, but now they are an unhappy people. There is a great difference between the old Jew now selling old clothes, and the old Jew when he stood as the High Priest worshiping God in the beautiful temple."

Bobby. "Well, Pa, I am satisfied

now that the Bible is of God. I can prove it to myself and others, and shall hereafter, when I read it, be more interested, and feel that God is talking to me. But Pa—I like to forget—I heard Will. Sanders say that there were so many contradictions and false sayings in the Bible, that if it was from God, He must be a strange kind of a God. I want you to explain all those places to me, so that I may be able to tell him better, and lead him to read and love the Bible.”

Pa. “Many wicked men have said many wicked things about the Bible, and tried to make one part of it oppose the other, but they have failed, as I will show you. But we have talked long enough to-night, and you

must wait until to-morrow evening, then Grandpa and I will explain all to you."

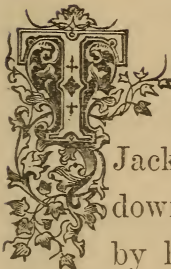
Bobby handed over the Bible to Grandpa, and the twelfth Psalm was read, in which are the words, "The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times;" and the Lord's protection was asked for the night.





CHAPTER V.

THE BIBLE. OBJECTIONS MET.

 HE evening of the same day that Bobby had his talk with Jack Weston, Jack went home very much down cast. He felt that Bobby had the best of the argument. He resolved that he would ask his father about these things, and see if he could not answer the arguments that Bobby's father had taught him. So when he got home, he told his fath-

er what had passed, and how Bobby's father was teaching him how to know that the Bible was from God, and he asked him to tell him how to answer Bobby next time. His father sat down and wrote a few lines to Mr. Myrtle, and told Jack to give the note to Bobby, for his father. He told Jack that the note would show Bobby and his father that the Bible could not be of God. Jack hastened to school next morning with the note, in a great glee to think that Bobby would be beaten now. He had read the note, and when he met Bobby at school, he showed it to him, and told him that would show him what the Bible was. Bobby read the note, and as he could not see how what was in it could be

answered, he felt a little down-hearted, but he told Jack that he would bring him an answer next day. So he hastened home when school was out, and as soon as he reached the house, he handed Mr. Weston's note to his father, telling him all about his talk with Jack. Mr. Myrtle read the note, and told Bobby that he would explain all that was in it when they met that evening to renew their talks about the Bible.

After supper, when all was arranged as on the evening before, Benny said: "Now Pa, I want you to answer that note that Mr. Weston sent you, for Jack Weston talked to Bobby to-day, as if it would show the Bible to be all

a lie, and not fit for good people to read."

Grandpa. "Before Pa answers that note, I want to ask Bobby a few questions. I think the answers to them will give him another proof that the Bible is of God."

Bobby. "I do not know whether I can answer them, Grandpa, but I will try. I will be glad to have another proof of the Bible's truth."

Grandpa. "I think you can answer them if you will think of them a little. The first one is, Do you think that bad men would have written the Bible? You and I read it through together, and you know what it teaches."

Bobby, after thinking awhile, said :

“No, Grandpa, I don’t think bad men would have done it. If they did, they wrote against themselves, and men do not do that. The Bible says bad men shall not live out half of their days, and that the wicked shall be destroyed. Bad men would not have written thus against themselves; besides, they had no reason to write thus. They gained nothing by it.”

Grandpa. “Well, you have answered right. The next question is, Would good men have written the Bible?”

Bobby waited some time before he answered; he seemed in deep thought. At last he said with earnestness: “No sir; I am certain good men would not have written the Bible of them-

selves. Good men would not tell stories. The Bible *claims* to be of God. If it was not of God, good men would not have said so, for that would have been telling what was not so. Good men would not have written it. They had no reason to write stories, as it did not do them any good."

Grandpa. "Well now, if neither bad men nor good men would write the Bible, who would? When you take away all the bad and all the good, there are none left to write it. Who wrote it?"

Bobby. "O I see now, Grandpa. If bad men could not, and good men would not write the Bible, God must have done it. This is another proof. I am glad that you told me of it. But

now, Pa, let us have the note answered."

Pa. "Well, you take the note and read the objections Mr. Weston has written against the Bible, and I will answer them."

Bobby. "The first objection is, 'The Bible has caused more tears and blood-shed than all other books. If it was from a God that was good, it would not have done so; therefore it is not from God.'"

Pa. "That objection was brought against the Bible by Thomas Paine."

Benny. "Who was Thomas Paine, Grandpa?"

Grandpa. "He was a man who did not believe in the Bible, and wrote a book called '*The Age of Reason*,'

against it. He lived at the time of the Revolutionary War. He was a bad man, and was often drunk. He died as he lived."

Pa. "This is not true about the Bible. There are more wars and sorrows and tears where the Bible is not known, than where it is known. Those who did evil things, and caused sorrow, though they said they believed the Bible, did not follow its words, for it teaches peace upon earth, and good will to man."

Bobby. "I read in that history of France you gave me, Grandpa, that when the people of France burned the Bible, and called it a cheat, the whole country was filled with sorrow and tears. Men were murdered, and wo-

men suffered miserably. The whole people were in mourning. And they had to bring the Bible back."

Pa. "Yes, where the Bible is not, men are governed by their passions, and sorrow must come upon them. This then is simply untrue about the Bible, as history proves. Read the next."

Bobby. "The next is, 'The Bible leads to immorality. If it was from a God of purity, it would not be so; hence it is a cheat.' Why, Pa, this is just like the other. It is not true, is it?"

Pa. "This also is from Paine. I reckon Mr. Weston has been reading his book, called 'The Age of Reason.' All infidels, nearly, have it. They

make it their bible. I do not see how they can say this of the Bible, when they look at the morals of those who have the Bible, and those who have it not. They know that it teaches men to be moral, and that it tells men to keep themselves unspotted from the world."

Grandpa. "We need not go out of our own country to see how untrue this is of the Bible. Good men read the Bible; bad men do not. Good men love it; bad men do not."

Bobby. "When I go to Viola to Church, I see all the good people there, and the Bible is read to them. When I was at the tavern, I saw all sorts of men, except good ones. The men were drinking and cursing, and

saying bad things. I did not see the Bible, nor did I hear it talked about, except once, and then the bar-keeper said that his spirits had more effect on men than the Spirit the Bible talks about. I think a man ought to be ashamed to say such a thing of the Bible, as Mr. Weston has written, when he knows it is untrue."

Pa. "Men hate the Bible, and that is why they say such things. When they say it they do not believe it, for they know that the Bible makes good men, and if it does, of course it does not lead to vice. But read the next objection."

Bobby. "The third one reads: 'It says that things were done that could not be done, as in the case of Noah's

Ark. It was too small to hold all said to have been saved in it.' Can that be so, Pa? I never thought of that before."

Pa. "This is a very small objection, and shows the want of thought and calculation. It has been shown that the Ark would hold as much as sixteen large ships-of-war. The Ark was four hundred and fifty feet in length, seventy-five wide, and forty-five in depth. Now, sixteen ships-of-war will hold about fifteen thousand men, and enough for them to eat for eighteen months. There were but eight persons in the Ark, and about two hundred and fifty pairs of animals, and a fewer number of birds. These could all have been put in the

Ark, and provisions enough for a year also. Thus you see that by figures, this objection is destroyed."

Bobby. "How foolish for men to make such an objection, when it can so easy be overturned. Why, any school boy can calculate that, and show how untrue the statement is."

Pa. "It is very foolish, but their hate for the Bible blinds them so that they cannot reason right. But has Mr. Weston any more objections?"

Bobby. "O yes, he has two more under one. He has it marked number four, but there are two in it. I will read it all: 'The Bible contradicts itself. It says God tempted Abraham, and in another place it says God tempts no man. Matthew says

that Judas hanged himself, but in Acts it is said he fell headlong, and his bowels gushed out. Hence the Bible is a cheat.' This is all in the note."

Pa. "Very learned men have tried to make it out that the Bible contradicts itself, but they have not done it. These two things in the note are like all the rest, not true. We will see the one about God tempting Abraham first. The mistake is in the word *tempt*. This word has two meanings, and it is used in one sense when it is said God tempted Abraham, and in the other when it is said God tempts no man. One meaning is to try men. God tried Abraham, tried his love and faith. The other is to lead men into evil and wickedness. In this sense

God tempts no man. He does not lead men into wickedness, but into good."

Bobby. "I see that now, Pa. When Bob Mudd tried to get me to go to the circus, when you told me not to go, he tempted me. In this way God tempts no man. When you told Benny the other day to throw his pretty bow and arrow that Grandpa gave him, into the fire, you tempted or tried him, to see if he loved you enough to do it, because you told him. In this way God tempted Abraham. The Bible does not contradict itself here. But how about Judas, Pa?"

Pa. "You have the true idea about the word tempt. I will explain to you about Judas, so that you will see

that Matthew and Luke, who wrote the Acts, do not tell different things. Matthew says Judas hanged himself. Luke says he fell headlong, and his bowels gushed out. May not both be true? After he hanged himself, the rope may have broken, and when he fell, the fall may have caused the gushing out of his bowels. Matthew tells one part, and Luke the other; so you see there is no contradiction, both agree."

Bobby. "Well, I am satisfied now. I will write all your answers out to-morrow, and tell Jack to give them to his Pa. I think Jack's mother will be glad to hear them read, for she believes and reads the Bible. I am glad that you have answered all these

objections, for me. I love the Bible, and want to be sure that it is from my Heavenly Father. But Pa, I heard Mr. Theo last Sabbath say that the Bible was not only the best book, but that it was filled with beauties. He said there was no other book like it. I wish you would point out some of these beauties to me. I have found some of them myself, but I want you to point more out to me, for you can explain them to me so well."

Pa. "Well, to-morrow evening Grandpa and I will show you some of the many beauties God has put in His Word. Now we will worship the God of the Bible, and thank Him for His Word." Mr. Myrtle read the third chapter of Proverbs, commen-

cing, "My son, forget not my law ;
but let thine heart keep my command-
ments."





CHAPTER VI.

THE BIBLE. ITS BEAUTIES.

 OBBY, as he said he would, wrote out the answers his father told him, to Mr. Weston's objections to the Bible, and gave them to Jack the next day, to give to his father. Nothing more was said by Jack to Bobby against the Bible, for he felt ashamed of what he had said about it. The next evening the boys came to their Pa, asking that he

would fulfill his promise of the night before, about the beauties of the Bible. Benny commenced the talk, by saying:

“Now, Pa, you promised to tell us some of the beautiful things the Bible has in it. Tell us about them. I heard Grandpa read to Bobby something about a boy that ran away from his Pa, and got so poor that he could hardly live. He was called the Prodigal Son. Tell us all about him, Pa.”

Pa. “Well, the Bible tells of a good old man who had two sons. One, the youngest, asked his father for his portion of what his father owned, that he might go out by himself, and live as he pleased. The old man, though sorry that his youngest boy wanted to

go away from him, gave him his portion of goods, and the young man went into a far country. His father, and mother, and brother, were left behind; and in the country where he went, amid the gay scenes there, he forgot them all. While he had wealth, many gay friends gathered about him, and called him handsome, and witty, and wise, that they might please him, so that he would give them of his wealth. He led a joyous life, taking part in all the pleasures of the country. There was nothing that money could buy, that he did not have if he wanted it. Young men praised him, and young ladies smiled upon him. All was prosperous, and he rejoiced in his way of living. But soon the

clouds began to gather about him. His money began to fail, and when that was gone, his kind friends all turned away from him. There were no young men to laugh at his wit; no young ladies to smile upon him. Those who were his friends in sunshine, turned their backs upon him when the clouds came. At last, all of his money was spent. He was so poor that he was about to starve. So that he might have something even to eat, he hired himself to a man of that country, to feed swine. In rags, and scorned by those who once looked up to him, he fain would have eaten the food upon which the swine fed. Weeping at his forlorn condition, his mind turned towards his father's house.

Home, with all its joys and comforts came up before his mind. He remembered that home as the place where his mother was so kind to him. Memory pictured many scenes of joy and happiness through which he had passed. He remembered that mother as she stood with tears in her eyes the day he left. He still felt the warm grasp of his loving father's hand. He thought of all the comforts of that home, even that the servants had plenty and to spare. He thought how sinful and foolish he had acted in leaving all these comforts. At last, while he thought, he burst into tears, saying: 'I will arise and go to my father, and tell him I am not worthy to be his son, for I have sinned against him

and against God. I'll go and tell him to make me as one of his hired servants.' He turned his face towards home, and started to return. He reached the place in a few days, and looked at all the old familiar scenery. His father, who loved him still, was looking out for him. He saw him at a distance, and ran and fell upon his neck, and kissed him. He took him into the house, and placed a beautiful robe upon him, and a ring upon his finger, and ordered the fatted calf to be killed in honor of his return. The poor wandering boy was now safe in his father's house, and there was great joy and feasting, for the old man said: 'This my son that was dead, is alive again.' "

Benny. “That is a beautiful story, Pa; but why did the young man leave his father and mother? Was it not very foolish in him to do so?”

Pa. “O yes, but how many do the same thing now? That is the beauty of the Bible. This young man was but a type of those young men who go from home, and engage in all kinds of wickedness, and at last come to want. How beautifully the Bible describes his condition at home, and in that far country. You need not read novels to find interesting stories; the Bible is full of them.”

Bobby. “The Bible is not read, because people think it is dry; and people find fault with it because they

have never read it. But Pa, tell us more about it."

Pa. "Did you ever read the Bible's description of God? It is grandly beautiful. Let Grandpa turn to the third chapter of Habakkuk, and read it. I cannot tell it as it is told there."

Grandpa read as follows: "God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. And His brightness was as light. Before Him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. He stood and measured the earth: He beheld, and drove asunder the nations, and the everlasting mountains were scattered,

and perpetual hills did bow. His ways are everlasting. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers. The mountains saw thee and trembled."

Bobby. "What a grand description of God! How terrible He is! Who would not fear Him!"

Pa. "But there is another description in the thirty-eighth chapter of Job. God is speaking to Job."

Grandpa read: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knoweth? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations, or who laid the corner-stone thereof, when the morning stars sang together,

and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleides, or loose the bands of Orion?"

Bobby. "This is indeed grand. It is strange that men will not read the Bible, when such beautiful things are in it."

Grandpa. "Men do not read it enough to see its beauties. There is a beautiful description of Jesus going to heaven, in the Psalms of David. It fills the mind with a beautiful picture of His return to heaven."

Bobby. "Tell it to us, Grandpa. I have read it, I suppose; but every time I read the Bible I find some new beauty."

Grandpa. "Yes, that is the great

beauty of the Bible. You become tired of other books, but never of this. It is like a gold mine: the more you dig, the more gold you find; so the more you read the Bible, the more beauties you find."

Benny. "But Grandpa, tell us about Jesus going back to heaven. Who went with Him? How did He go?"

Grandpa. "He went from the Mount of Olives, near the city of Jerusalem. His disciples were standing around Him, and while He talked with them, He commenced to go up towards heaven; and, as they looked, bright angels came to meet Him; and with these beautiful beings around Him, He went to the pearly gates of

heaven : and one with Him exclaimed, 'Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.' And a voice from within the city is heard, asking, 'Who is this King of glory?' And the answer is, 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.' Then again it is said by the one without, 'Lift up your heads, O ye gates ; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.' The question from within is, 'Who is this King of glory?' The answer is heard, bold and loud : 'The Lord of Hosts ; He is the King of glory.' And amid the waving of bright wings, and the sweet music of heaven, Jesus enters, and is

seated upon His throne. Is not that a more beautiful picture than man could make? ”

Bobby. “O yes, Grandpa, it is. How I wish I could have been with Him there. How I would like to see that beautiful city. But tell us more, Grandpa.”

Pa. “You will have to study the Bible for yourself, and find its beauties. It is full of them. I hope now you will read it often, as it is what God tells to man, and has so many beautiful things in it.”

Bobby. “I will read it more, now that I know so much more about it. I will read it every day. But Pa, I noticed when I read it with Grandpa, that all through it, it talked about

Christ; it is all about Him in some way. I know that He is the Son of God, for you told me so, and Mr. Theo said He was the Savior of men, and Grandpa said He was the Son of man. I wish you would tell me all about Him, will you?"

Pa. "Yes, the Bible is all about Him, and I am glad that you want to know more of Him, for He is the only Savior of men, and I hope you will go to Him, and ask Him to save you."

Bobby. "I will, Pa; but tell me about Him, so I may go to Him."

Pa. "It is too late to-night, but at another time we will have a long talk about Him. You and Benny must go to the city to school next week, and when you come home at vacation,

Grandpa and I will tell you all about Him."

Bobby said he would wait, but he would take his Bible with him, and read what it said about Christ. Tears came in his eyes as he thought about leaving his Ma, and Pa, and Grandpa, and home, to go off to school; and Benny put his arms around his Ma's neck and said, as he cried and kissed her, he did not know how he was to leave her. Grandpa, before he prayed, read the first chapter of Proverbs, in which are these words: "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother; for they shall be an ornament of grace upon thy head, and chains about thy neck."



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